

Newport Now

Volume II, Issue III

A place to live, work, shop and play. It's all that and more!

March/April 2004

City

Administration:

Mayor:	Tom Guidugli
Vice Mayor:	Jerry Peluso
Commissioners:	Jan Knepshield
	Beth Fennell
	Robbie Hall
City Manager:	Phil Ciafardini
Police Chief :	Tom Fromme
Fire Chief:	Larry Atwell
Chief Financial Officer:	Greg Engelman
City Clerk:	Paula Williamson
City Solicitor:	Mike Schulkens

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Excitement Builds as Park Improvements Near Completion

The City of Newport has made a big commitment to parks and recreation. The City developed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2001. Since that time major improvements have begun on the Veterans Park Complex, Bartlett Field and the Riverfront. There are also upgrades being made to the Ralph Mussman Recreation Complex. Below outlines the extent and the timing of completion of these significant improvements.

As a part of the City's commitment to our parks system, the City has increased staffing and has purchased much needed equipment to provide proper maintenance and enhance beautification efforts.

- Veterans Park to be rededicated April 17, 2004
- Bartlett Field rededication is set for May 15, 2004
- Upgrades made to Mussman Complex
- Riverfront Improvements to be ready for *Italianfest*

Everyone is invited to join in the celebration as the City of Newport rededicates the newly renovated Bartlett Field and Veteran's Memorial Park.



Re-Dedication of Veteran's Memorial Park

Saturday April 17, 12:00 pm

Rainout date: Saturday May 1, 12:00 pm

Re-Dedication of Bartlett field

Saturday May 15, 12:00 pm

Rainout date: Saturday May 22, 12:00pm

Veteran's Memorial Park will feature the following improvements:

- ♦ New ball fields
(Sod and underground irrigation)
- ♦ New backstops and fencing
- ♦ New dugouts
- ♦ New Scoreboards on both fields
- ♦ New bleachers
- ♦ New Concrete walking trail around entire complex
- ♦ Full Concession
- ♦ New Water fountains on both fields
- ♦ New Handicap Accessible ramp and walkway
- ♦ New Park Signage
- ♦ Improved ball field lighting
- ♦ All new landscaping throughout park
- ♦ Newly paved, resealed, and striped parking lot

Bartlett Field will feature the following improvements:

- ♦ New ball fields
(Sod and underground irrigation)
- ♦ New ball field lighting
- ♦ New backstops and fencing
- ♦ New dugouts
- ♦ New Scoreboards
- ♦ New hillside stadium style seating
- ♦ New Concrete steps and walking trail connecting to Veterans Park
- ♦ New Water fountains
- ♦ New extended outfield
- ♦ New park Signage
- ♦ Full Concession
- ♦ Additional parking
- ♦ All new landscaping throughout park

(continued on Page 5)

Home Ownership

WHAT US SENATOR GREW UP ON ANN STREET?

On February 17, 2004 Newport Housing Development Corporation (NHDC) held a ribbon-cutting event to recognize the first homeowners at Ann Street Commons. In attendance was Senator Jim Bunning who reflected on the years he spent growing up on Ann Street and how excited he was to see the revitalization of this area of the West End. Additionally, Matt Switzer, one of the three new homeowners, commented that he never thought it would be possible to own his own home.

Brighton Center, which is a partner with the City of Newport in NHDC, has worked closely with all the new homeowners to secure subsidies that allowed them to purchase these homes at a price that was affordable for each of them and that required no money down. Brighton Center currently has funding available for two additional individuals or families to make their dream of homeownership a reality.

Potential homeowners would need to meet the following requirements:

\$34,000-\$35,000 for a household of 3 people
 \$34,000-\$38,580 for a household of 4 people
 \$34,000-\$41,640 for a household of 5 people
 \$34,000-\$44,760 for a household of 6 people

There are currently two homes still available in Phase I. Both are 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath, with a garage. Phase II will begin soon and will include two 2-bedroom and two 3-bedroom with parking pads. When complete, NHDC plans on 24 homes replacing the entire block. You can learn more about financial assistance available and how you can own a new home on Ann Street by calling Kathy at 491-8303 Ext. 2413.



Clifton Spaghetti Dinner

The Clifton Neighborhood Association will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 15th 2004. Dinner will be served from 3:00 PM till 6:00 PM at the Full Gospel Assembly of God church on 13th and Monmouth streets. Dinner will include spaghetti with sauce, salad with Italian dressing, bread, cake and a drink (coffee or lemonade).



Pre-sale tickets are \$6.00 per person and can be obtained by contacting any of the Clifton Neighborhood Association members or by calling Tammy Usleaman at 859-581-9199. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$7.00 per person.

Come and enjoy the hospitality of the Clifton Neighborhood and have a wonderful time meeting new people. Hope to see you there.

From the Police Department . . .

Senior Night Out

The Newport Police Department presents Senior Night Out at Newport on the Levee scheduled for June 30, 2004.

Activities will include two training sessions on senior information/crime prevention issues, medicare/drug updates, frauds/scams, free transportation from established pickup points, a free movie, and possible blood pressure/health screening.

Come and join us for a day of fun and excitement at Newport on the Levee. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. For more information contact Capt. Howard Niemeier at (859) 292-3611.



Bicycle Safety Rodeo

The City will have its Annual Bicycle Safety Rodeo (Team Huff Safety / Fire Safety) on May 8, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. at the Newport Police Department.

This event gives kids the opportunity to learn about bicycle riding safety, and dangers of street racing, fire safety. There will be a drawing for 5 new bicycles to be given away during the event. Events will include a bicycle riding obstacle course, meet Team Huff Drag Racing Team, and free items for all.

**For more information contact
 Capt. Howard Niemeier at (859) 292-3611.**

Newport Italianfest 2004

Newport Italianfest 2004: June 10-13

Location: Newport's Riverboat Row

Thursday: 6:30pm - 11pm

Saturday: 11am - 11pm

Friday: 5:30pm - 11pm

Sunday: Noon - 9pm



Italianfest, named a Top 20 Event in June by the Southeast Tourism Society, is held along Newport's Riverboat Row between the Taylor-Southgate and Purple People Bridges. The festival has authentic Italian food and live Italian music performed by entertainers from around the nation, a Golf Outing, Spaghetti Nob Benefit-NPI RiverWalk, a Family Photo Booth which showcases the history of Italian families that settled in Newport generations ago, pizza-eating contest, cooking contest, games, rides and fireworks. For more information, please call (859) 292-3666.

The *Italianfest Committee* is busy working out the details for this year's festival. We are excited about the changes we have in progress, and wanted to share some of them with you. Here are some of the things we are working on:

Italianfest Family Recognition Event:

This year we will be honoring at the festival, four of our **Oldest Italian-Americans** male or female, who reside in the City of Newport. While we have a pretty good idea whom they might be, we are asking for anyone who knows of an individual of Italian descent who is in their 80's or 90's, to call the City of Newport at (859) 292-3666. We're hoping to have our search completed by May 1st.

We are also going to award our first **Honored Italian-American Sons and Daughters Award**. This award will go to an individual who has made a difference in the City of Newport and to the *Italianfest*. Our announcement will be made at a later time.

All of our honored guests will be invited to our Thursday night Festa Italiana 2004 Opening Ceremonies and VIP Reception. Their names will also be added to an **Honor Roll** in our Italian Festival Program.

We are also going to take an opportunity this year to read on stage some of the **Italian-American Family Biographies** from our Family Photo Booth. We are proud of our Italian Heritage and have some wonderful family histories to share.

My Mom the Cook (Dad, Brother, Sister or Grandparent etc):

This year we want to encourage our Italian American Families to write a story about a family member and a family favorite dish or dessert. Also included in the story should be any family traditions or stories associated with cooking/baking (recipe included would be great). The only requirement to entering a story is that the person being written about is Italian or married to an Italian, a photo may also be included. We're hoping for some funny and heartwarming stories to add to our *Italianfest* Family Recognition Event, perhaps in the future, we could add it to an *Italianfest* Cookbook. My Mom the Cook forms can be printed from this site and mailed to us or picked up and returned to the Embassy Booth located at one of the festival entrances. It might even be fun to enter your dish/dessert in the Cooking Contest.

Entertainment:

A change of venue has been made for our Thursday night opening. We will have a **Big Band Night** featuring the **Pete Wagner Band** complete with a dance area for you to kick up your heels. During the festival, we will also have the **Fiesta Dancers** and **Frank Massa** performing on stage, who knows, you might even see **ELVIS!** Additional acts and fun things for the kids and schedules will follow at a later date.

Italianfest Site:

Site construction is currently underway to improve the entire area where the festival is located. Weather permitting, festivalgoers will enjoy an entire flat one level area, easy to access and walk through the entire festival. If the site has kept you from coming to the event in the past, we hope you will reconsider and come celebrate with us this year.

Please visit our web site for updated information regarding our
13th Annual Newport Italianfest 2004.

Sale of Water System a Good Decision

The sale of the Newport Water System continues to be a good decision for the City. In addition to having the proceeds of the sale to be used to leverage funds for economic development projects, housing partnerships/developments, street improvements and parks projects, while relieving the City of a huge liability, it has also provided former Newport water system customers with some rate protection.

- Since last summer, the Northern Kentucky Water District (NKWD) has been working on a rate unification plan for its entire service area. This issue is currently in front of the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC). The exact amount and timing of the increase will not be determined until an order by the PSC is issued.
- Water rates for customers of the Newport water system have not increased in five years! The last water rate increase occurred on April 1, 1999.
- The average residential bill (user of 18,000 gallons per quarter) of a Newport water customer is projected to increase from \$59.76 per quarter to \$80.22 per quarter. This amount is still much less than the 55% increase proposed to take effect on October 1, 2001 (\$89.68) when owned by Newport. The subsequent water rate increases recommended for the Newport water system would most likely have put the average Newport water customer's water bill to over a \$100 a quarter at this time if system was still owned by Newport.

Street Improvements

Tenth Street and Park Avenue Bridge to Close April 19, 2004

The state has been working on the reconstruction of the Railroad Bridge that crosses at Tenth Street and Park Avenue since November, 2003. Beginning April 19th, Tenth Street will be closed at Grand Avenue to the east and Monroe to the west, except for local traffic. The bridge could be closed for up to six months. However, every effort will be made to get the intersection open sooner.

This improvement will provide for better safety, as well as, improve the overall aesthetics of that entry into the City. The final finishes for the bridge will be in character with the historic character of the surrounding neighborhood.

Your patience during construction is appreciated.



South Monmouth Storm Sewer Improvement Underway



Beginning last summer there have been flooding issues along South Monmouth Street (U.S.27). This flooding was mainly the result of a collapsed private line in front of the AmeriStop strip center. The City has partnered with the Sanitation District to correct the immediate problem. The project is expected to be completed by May 31, 2004. Due to the tremendous amount of water that flows through that line, with most of the water coming from outside of Newport, the Sanitation District has agreed to conduct a Watershed Study so that short and long range strategies can be developed to provide for further storm water improvements throughout the storm system. This study is scheduled to be completed by fall, 2004.

Newport Library

The Second Hundred Years

The Campbell County Library Grand Opening is fast approaching. The Library has some exciting things planned.

The Carnegie Library will be closing on Saturday, May 1, 2004. The closing ceremony will take place from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the corner of Fourth and Monmouth Streets.

The Grand Opening of the New Branch will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2004 from 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. at 901 E. Sixth Street. There will be music provided by the Wild Carrot.

Programs are scheduled for the week of May 17th - May 22nd, which include antiques and collectibles, knitting, space mythology, magic show, Winnie-the-Pooh, and a scavenger hunt. Please call (859) 572-5035 to register for these great programs.

This Grand Opening Ceremony will signify an end of an era and the beginning of a new.

The City has purchased the Carnegie Library and has performed feasibility studies to determine a proper reuse of this facility.



Purple People Bridge Celebrates 1st Birthday

Purple fudge, crimson attired dogs and a hole in one golf contest from a purple tee are just some of the many activities at the May 8 first anniversary celebration of the Newport Southbank Bridge, known as the Purple People Bridge.

The community is invited to the noon-6:00 p.m. festival at the Newport and Cincinnati entries and along the entire one-mile span of the famous pedestrian bridge. The celebration features ongoing music and entertainment, food booths, contests, working artists, and car and dog shows.

A \$5 donation to the Purple Bridge Maintenance Fund serves as the entry fee for contests, including the 1:00 p.m. Ice Cream Making "Crank Off" between local corporate teams and community groups. Recipes are available for concocting colorful flavor sensations and judging takes place at 3:00 p.m.

Then at 2:00 p.m. hearty eaters enter the Wiener of the Wurst Hot Dog Eating Contest.

Canine lovers gather with their pooches for the Purple Paw Contest at 4:00 p.m. Award categories include Best and Worst Dressed, Best and Worst Jump, Best Bridge Look Alike, Looks Most Like Owner, Smallest and Largest, Fattest and Thinnest and Best Sports Costume.

Throughout the day vintage cars are on display with a backdrop of continuous music from well-known Tri-State bands. Over two dozen renowned area crafters and artisans are set to display and sell their wares.



Like last year, the winner of the hole in one contest from the Newport on the Levee landing onto a floating target wins airfare for two to any continental U.S. destination compliments of Delta Airlines. Golfers get 3 swings for \$5.

Hot dogs and popcorn as well as purple fudge, ice balls and ice cream are available throughout the day.

All event proceeds benefit the Purple Bridge Maintenance Fund. Over \$100,000 a year in donations is needed to maintain security, trash removal, lighting and upkeep of the bridge. The Newport Southbank Bridge Co. is a non-profit organization that does not receive support from taxes or government sources.

The colorful bridge originally opened to railroad traffic in 1872. It was closed, renovated and painted purple, re-opening in 2003 to immediate success. Over 596,000 people have used the bridge since that debut. As the largest pedestrian bridge in the U.S. linking two states, the bridge attracts tourists and is a main thoroughfare for tourists on both sides of the river as it links attractions in Newport to downtown Cincinnati.

Donors of \$10 or more receive an official bridge ownership certificate and commemorative pin. Stop by the Bridge Maintenance Fund Booth at the May 8 festivities, visit any Fifth Third Bank location or send a check to the Fund at 421 Monmouth Street, Newport, Kentucky 41071.

For additional information or to register for one of the contests, phone Southbank Partners at (859) 655-7700

Parks Continued

The City has also made some exciting upgrades to Ralph Mussman Sports Complex.

Upgrades include:

- Regraded and added Sod on infield areas
- New surfacing and colors to Tennis and Basketball Courts
- New tennis post and nets
- New Blacktop games for children
- Newly resealed and striped walkways and parking lot
- Full Concession

Other Exciting things to look forward to this summer:

The City is dedicated to improving and enhancing existing parks and facilities. As part of this commitment, the City has increased staffing so that facilities will be maintained seven days per week throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall months. Additionally, Parks and Recreation has purchased new equipment, which will contribute to improved park maintenance and safety. Park visitors

can expect to see updated landscaping that will incorporate bright, seasonal colors as part of the new Beautification Plan. Visit one of your neighborhood parks this summer, and support the City in its efforts to improve the quality of life in Newport

Please take pride in your City Parks. Report any safety concerns or vandalism by contacting our office at 292-3686.

Riverfront Improvements

Significant improvements to the Riverfront area in front of the Newport Levee/Aquarium and between the Taylor Southgate and Purple People Bridges are nearing completion. The City completed the stairs and ramp from the Levee to Riverboat Row last year. By June 1, 2004 the Riverboat Row level will provide for a more user-friendly site to enhance the success of all the events and festivals held at the site.

The City will continue to seek funding for the completion of the improvements over the next several years.

2004 Festivals & Events

Newport Italianfest

June 10-13

The festival has authentic Italian food and live Italian music performed by entertainers from around the nation, a Golf Outing, Spaghetti Nob Benefit-NPI RiverWalk, a Family Photo Booth-which showcases the history of Italian families that settled in Newport generations ago, pizza eating contest, cooking contest, games, rides, and fireworks. For more information, call (859) 292-3666.

Irish Heritage Festival

June 25 - 27

A weekend long celebration of this area's second largest immigrant population that features authentic Irish food, song, dance and literature. For more information, please call (513) 761-9911.

Live at the Levee - Summer Concert Series

June 30 - September 22

Every other Wednesday night there will be a new alternative for after work entertainment.

America's Celebration/Newport Motorcycle Rally

July 2-4

This celebration will include fireworks on the riverfront, games, live entertainment, food, contests and prizes! Motorcycle show awards to best looking bikes. For more information call (859) 912-2509 or (859) 912-2510.

Newport Arts & Music Festival

July 24 & 25

This festival features fine arts and crafts, performing artists and a Gallery Tent featuring the artwork of local school children and the best local music around. For more information, please call (859) 292-3666.

Great Inland Seafood Festival

August 12-15

This annual festival, along the riverbanks of Newport and Cincinnati, features premium seafood dishes from restaurants around the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati Region and music for all with a continuous riverboat shuttle. For more information, please call (513) 761-9911.

Kentucky State Chili Cook-Off & Car Show

August 29

The 15th annual Campbell County Boys and Girls Club Chili Cook-Off & Car Show features one of the largest car shows in Kentucky which includes entertainment, food and crafts. For more information, please call (859) 292-3666.

Riverfest

September 5

Entertainment on Riverboat Row includes food and Rozzi's largest and oldest fire works display at dark. For more information, please call (859) 912-2509.

Summer Concert Series

The City of Newport will be partnering with MIX 94.1 and Newport on the Levee for the *LIVE at the Levee* Wednesday Night Summer Concert Series.

The new Wednesday night after work parties will begin on Wednesday, June 30th, 2004 and continue every other Wednesday through September 22, 2004. The *LIVE at the Levee* parties will take place at Newport Festival Park, at the base of Newport on the Levee, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and will include food, drinks, beer and a different live band at each party.



The *LIVE at the Levee* Summer Concert Series will offer a new alternative for after work entertainment. The concerts are expected to generate a real excitement for the whole Greater Cincinnati area.

Admission to the *LIVE at the Levee* Summer Concert Series is free. More details will be announced on MIX 94.1, on the MIX website, www.mixcincinnati.com, at the City of Newport's Festival site, www.cityofnewportky.org/festivalevents.htm and Newport on the Levee's website, www.newportonthelevee.com.

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Aquarium Expansion Opening

Otters Coming to the Levee

In addition to all the great restaurants and entertainment opportunities already at the Levee, the Levee will welcome new residents this summer.

The Newport Aquarium has undergone a \$4.6 million dollar expansion. The expansion has increased the current facility by 21,200 square feet. This expansion has increased the facility's total space by 20% and its exhibition space by 40%.

The Newport Aquarium will open a new permanent exhibit over Memorial Day weekend featuring Asian small-clawed river otters.

Call (866) LeveeKY for numbers to all venues at the Levee or check the Newport on the Levee web site at www.NewportontheLevee.com for all events and special happenings.



Meals on Wheels

Feed Your Soul and the hunger of elderly in your community. You can be a part of the Meals On Wheels program by delivering meals to senior citizens in Newport! The regular visit and meal reminds our local seniors that they are valued members of our community and it's a great reminder of how important *you* are to others! Volunteers may deliver meals on weekdays once a week, twice a month or just when other drivers are not available. Delivery starts at 11:00 a.m. and takes about one hour.

Training is provided and mileage can be reimbursed. Seniors in your community are interested in meeting you; it's time to introduce yourself!

For more information about this, or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Sonya Turner at Senior Services of Northern Kentucky, (859) 491-0522 or sturner@seniorservicesnky.org.

Litterfest and PWC Repair Affair



The City of Newport is ready and willing to accept your trash. Litterfest runs from Saturday, May 8 through Sunday May 16. Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., residents can drop off old appliances, yard waste, and other materials at the City garage located at 1020 East 9th Street.

To have large items picked up call (859) 292-3637. Last year, the City hauled away more than 330 cubic yards of waste.

People Working Cooperatively Repair Affair takes place on Saturday, May 8. City employees will split two teams and clean gutters, rake leaves and do yard maintenance work for low-income, disabled and elderly homeowners in Newport. The City of Newport has participated in Repair Affair for more than 8 years. Repair Affair is organized by People Working Cooperatively. To see if you qualify for assistance or if you would like to volunteer contact PWC at (513) 351-7921.

For more information call (859) 292-3666.

Mark Your Calendar!

Information pertaining to various City Commission and other City Board meeting schedules and events may also be viewed on the City's Cable Channel 16 and City's web site www.cityofnewportky.org.

April 19 Veteran's Memorial Pool Season Passes On Sale
Veteran's Memorial Pool is located on Caroline Drive and features an Olympic-Size pool, diving well, wading baby pool and shelter. Certified lifeguards are on duty at all times. Season passes may be purchased for families or individuals on the second floor of the Newport Municipal Complex, call (859) 292-3686.

April 22 Fleer Major League Baseball Diamond Skills
Diamond Skills are sponsored by Major League Baseball. Boys and Girls compete in the same age bracket to test throwing, fielding and base running. Open to children ages 7 – 14 at Ralph Mussman Baseball Field.

May 2 Kids Carnival
Bernadette Watkins Park - The Kids Carnival features balloons, carnival games, food and drinks for children of all ages from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

May 29 Veteran's Memorial Pool Opening
For daily admission prices and season pass information, contact Parks and Recreation at (859) 292-3686.

May 31 Memorial Day Parade
The City's annual Memorial Day Parade will begin at the Campbell County Courthouse and travel south on Monmouth Street to the Newport Municipal Complex at Tenth and Monmouth. A ceremony honoring all Veterans will take place in front of the Newport Municipal Complex following the parade. Call (859) 292-3686 to participate.

June 12 Hershey's Track and Field Meet
Newport High School - This is a fun-filled track and field competition for boys and girls ages 9 – 14. Winners of this meet will advance to the Regional Competition. Call (859) 292-3686 for additional registration information.

June 23 Snow Cones in the Parks – All City Parks
Newport Parks & Recreation Snow Cone Man will be coming to area parks with free snow cones for all park visitors. Call (859) 292-3686 for times.

July 9 Teen Swim Party
Veteran's Memorial Pool - The pool will be reserved for teens to swim free of charge. Come hand out with other Newport teens for a night of music, pizza, and swimming.

New Employees

Office of the City Manager
Shawn Merrill, Labor/Maintenance I - Parks & Recreation
Jacqueline Sumner, Secretary

Police Department
Clell Gabbard, Labor/Maintenance I - Public Works
Michael Whisner, Labor/Maintenance I - Public Works

City of Newport

998 Monmouth Street
Newport, KY 41071
(859) 292-3666
www.cityofnewportky.org

*A place to live, work, shop
and play.
It's all that and more!*

